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# NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.  
THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.

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## OUR LEGAL DUTY

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this Notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this Notice while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect 04/01/03, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request.

You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.

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## USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

**Treatment:** We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other healthcare provider providing treatment to you.

**Payment:** We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you.

**Healthcare Operations:** We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

**Your Authorization:** In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

**To Your Family and Friends:** We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the Patient Rights section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

**Persons Involved In Care:** We may use or disclose health information to notify, or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

**Marketing Health-Related Services:** We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

**Required by Law:** We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

**Abuse or Neglect:** We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

**National Security:** We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement official having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

**Appointment Reminders:** We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters).

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#### PATIENT RIGHTS

**Access:** You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. (You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this Notice. If you request copies, we will charge you \$0.\_\_\_\_ for each page, \$\_\_\_\_ per hour for staff time to locate and copy your health information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.)

**Disclosure Accounting:** You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

**Restriction:** You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

**Alternative Communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. (You must make your request in writing.) Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

**Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

**Electronic Notice:** If you receive this Notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

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#### QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

We support your right to the privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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(This Form is educational only, does not constitute legal advice, and covers only federal, not state, law in effect or proposed as of March 27, 2002. Subsequent law changes may require Form revision.)

## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES – HIPAA & 42 CFR PART 2

This Notice of Privacy Practices ("Notice") describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully. Protected health information (PHI) includes information that identifies you and relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition, the healthcare services you receive, or payment for those services. Some types of health information, including records related to Substance Use Disorder (SUD), receive additional protections under federal law, including regulations found at 42 CFR Part 2, in addition to HIPAA. These enhanced protections are explained later in this Notice.

**OUR PLEDGE REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION** - We understand that your health information is personal and confidential. We are committed to protecting the privacy and security of your protected health information (PHI). We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of your PHI
- Provide you with this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices
- Follow the terms of this Notice
- Notify you if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information

### HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PHI :

**Treatment** – We may use and disclose your PHI to provide, coordinate, or manage your dental care and related services.

**Payment** – We may use and disclose your PHI to obtain payment for services provided to you.

**Healthcare Operations** – We may use and disclose your PHI for practice operations, including quality assessment, staff training, legal compliance, auditing, and business planning.

**Appointment Reminders** – We may use or disclose your PHI to contact you about appointments, reminders, or treatment alternatives.

**Required by Law** – We may use or disclose your PHI when required by federal, state, or local law.

**Emergencies** – We may use or disclose your PHI in emergency situations as necessary to protect your health or safety.

**Public Health Activities** – We may disclose PHI for public health purposes, including disease prevention and reporting.

**Military, National Security, and Protective Services** – We may disclose PHI as required for military activities, national security, and protective services.

**Research** – We may use or disclose your PHI for research purposes when approved by law and with appropriate safeguards.

**Legal Proceedings** – We may only disclose PHI in response to a valid court order or other lawful process or by your written consent.

**Marketing** – We will not use your PHI for marketing purposes without your written authorization.

**Personal Representatives** – We may only disclose your PHI to a personal representative authorized by you in writing.

**Business Associates** – We may share your PHI with business associates who perform services on our behalf. These business associates are required by law to safeguard your information.

**Workers' Compensation** – We may disclose PHI for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

### SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) RECORDS

Some health information is considered especially sensitive and receives enhanced protection under federal law, including information related to Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Even if this practice is not a substance use treatment provider, these protections may apply if we receive, maintain, or transmit SUD-related information as part of your health record.

#### How SUD Information May Be Used

SUD-related records may be used and disclosed for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations, as permitted by law, unless you request additional restrictions. Prohibition on Legal Use SUD-related records may not be used against you in criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings without your written consent or a specific court order. Redisclosure Limitations -SUD-related information may not be redisclosed unless permitted by law. Additional restrictions may apply beyond standard HIPAA rules. Fundraising Restrictions - Your SUD-related information will not be used for fundraising purposes without your consent. You have the right to opt out of fundraising communications.

### YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

#### You have the right to:

- **Access** – Obtain a copy of your PHI
- **Amendment** – Request corrections to your PHI
- **Accounting of Disclosures** – Receive a list of certain disclosures of your PHI
- **Restrictions** – Request limitations on how we use or disclose your PHI
- **Confidential Communications** – Request communications in a specific manner/location
- **Fundraising Opt-Out** – Opt out of fundraising communications
- **Breach Notification** – Be notified of breaches of unsecured PHI
- **Complaints** – File a complaint with the OCR without retaliation

**CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE** - We reserve the right to change this Notice. Any changes will apply to all PHI we maintain. The updated Notice will be available upon request, in our office, and on our website.